

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/069,871

Attorney Docket No. 70606.00035
Customer No. 35161**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A bottle cap for a bottle which holds contents, the bottle cap being moveable between an open position with respect to the bottle and a closed position. the bottle cap comprising:

a cap body having an inner cap coupled so as to open or close the mouth of the bottle, and an outer cap made to rotate in a circumferential direction only and integrally connected to the inner cap so as not to deviate from the inner cap, said inner cap and said outer cap each including a top surface and a peripheral side wall, each of said side walls including an inner circumferential surface and an outer circumferential surface;

a ratcheting ~~means~~mechanism for which ~~operatively associating-associates~~ said inner cap with said outer cap by providing unidirectional engagement between said inner cap and said outer cap, said ratcheting ~~means~~mechanism having first and second ratcheting teeth formed at facing portions of the inner and outer circumferential surfaces of the side walls of the inner and outer caps and engaged to be moved unidirectionally, and first and second ratcheting protrusions spaced apart from the ratcheting teeth and protruding from the facing portions of the inner and outer caps, for integrally rotating the inner and outer caps from the mouth of the bottle such that the first and second ratcheting protrusions are engaged with each other when the second ratcheting teeth move relative to the first ratcheting teeth by stages, said first and second ratcheting ~~means~~ teeth producing being formed to have a tension between each other when in engagement and moving relatively to one another, whereby one of said first ratcheting teeth or said second ratcheting teeth are pressed inwardly toward the other of said second ratcheting teeth or said first ratcheting teeth, said first and second protrusions being spaced apart from one

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another by a predetermined distance when the bottle cap is in its closed position with respect to said bottle ; and

an opening/closing identification means mechanism for displaying whether the cap body has been opened or not, said opening/closing identification ~~means mechanism~~ having a display portion of displaying which displays whether the cap body had been opened or not, printed on the top surface of the inner cap, and an identification ~~means mechanism~~ for identifying from the outside whether the cap body has been opened or not according to the movement of the second ratcheting teeth relative to the first ratcheting teeth, said identification ~~means mechanism~~ being formed on the top surface of the outer cap;

wherein said integral connection of said inner and outer caps is defined by fixed protrusions and grooves formed at facing portions of inner and outer circumferential surfaces thereof.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The bottle cap according to claim 1, wherein the identification ~~means mechanism~~ includes an opening hole and further includes convex portions for covering ~~a said~~ display portion and concave portions for uncovering ~~a said~~ display portion, the convex and concave portions formed along ~~the a~~ periphery of said opening hole which is opened by perforating a portion of the top surface of the outer cap, at ~~the a~~ same spacing as the ratcheting teeth.

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4. (Currently amended) The bottle cap according to claim 1, ~~further including a~~
wherein said display portion is formed on said inner cap and a plurality of holes is formed in said
outer cap, wherein the identification ~~means~~mechanism is configured such that said holes formed
on said outer cap are formed at ~~the a~~ same spacing as the ratcheting teeth to uncover said display
portion therethrough.

5. (Currently amended) A bottle cap for a bottle which holds contents, the bottle
cap being moveable between an open position with respect to the bottle and a closed position, the
bottle cap comprising:

a cap body having an inner cap coupled so as to open or close the mouth of the bottle, and
an outer cap made to rotate in a circumferential direction only and integrally connected to the
inner cap, said inner cap and said outer cap each including a top surface and a peripheral side
wall, each of said side walls including an inner circumferential surface and an outer
circumferential surface;

a ratcheting means~~mechanism~~ which for operatively asseeiating-associates said inner cap
with said outer cap by providing unidirectional engagement between said inner cap and said
outer cap, said ratcheting ~~means~~mechanism having first and second ratcheting teeth formed at
facing portions of the inner and outer circumferential surfaces of the side walls of the inner and
outer caps and engaged to be moved unidirectionally, and first and second ratcheting protrusions
spaced apart from the ratcheting teeth and protruding from the facing portions of the inner and
outer caps, said first and second ratcheting means teeth ~~having-being~~ formed to have-produce a
tension between each other when in engagement and moving relatively to one another, whereby
one of said first ratcheting teeth or said second ratcheting teeth are pressed inwardly toward the

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other of said second ratcheting teeth or said first ratcheting teeth and said second protrusions being spaced apart from one another by a predetermined distance when the bottle cap is in its closed position with respect to said bottle; and

an opening/closing identification means mechanism for displaying whether the cap body has been opened or not, said opening/closing identification ~~means~~ mechanism having a display portion ~~of displaying which displays~~ whether the cap body had been opened or not, printed on the top surface of the inner cap, and an identification ~~means~~ mechanism for identifying from the outside whether the cap body has been opened or not, said identification ~~means~~ mechanism being formed on the top surface of the outer cap;

wherein said integral connection of said inner and outer caps is defined as fixed protrusions and grooves formed at facing portions of inner and outer circumferential surfaces thereof.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The bottle cap according to claim 5, wherein the identification ~~means~~ mechanism includes an opening hole and further includes convex portions for covering a said display portion and concave portions for uncovering a said display portion, the convex and concave portions formed along ~~the~~ a periphery of said opening hole which is opened by perforating a portion of the top surface of the outer cap.

8. (Currently amended) The bottle cap according to claim 5, ~~further including a~~ wherein said display portion is formed on said inner cap and a plurality of holes is formed in said

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outer cap, wherein the identification ~~means~~ mechanism is configured such that said holes are
formed on said outer cap.